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PULLING TOGETHER

IN SOUTHERN INDIANA



N-50149

... through

RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

From Rockport to Henryville, from Cannelton to Loogootee, southern Indiana is forging ahead. In Paoli, Salem, French Lick, and many other rural towns, local people are pulling together to raise their living standards.

In southern Indiana it means this: Local people are bringing in new industry, controlling floods, making streams and rivers more useable, developing recreation, and attracting tourists. They are managing their farms better and protecting their land. Rural living is being improved through higher incomes, better housing, modern electricity and water systems.

While much of southern Indiana is on the upswing, this report highlights representative counties--Clark, Crawford, Harrison, Martin, Orange, Perry, Spencer, and Washington.

Population of this 3,200 square-mile area increased by only 10 percent from 1950 to 1960 compared with 18.5 percent for the U.S. Outmigration was largely young people, seeking greater opportunities elsewhere.

The biggest change was in farming. Rolling hills add to the scenic beauty of the area, but the soils on the hillsides are highly erodible, floods are frequent, and bottomland fields are small. Farmers had difficulties competing with larger, level farms of north-

ern Indiana and other parts of the country where modern equipment can be more effectively used.

To compete, farmers bought land from neighbors who quit farming. During the decade, farms got bigger, and their number dropped from 13,000 to 10,000. There were more farms with sales over \$2,500 per year, fewer with sales under \$2,500. There were twice as many farms with sales over \$10,000. Value of land and buildings per farm increased by about 60 percent, while for the State of Indiana as a whole the increase was 150 percent. Farm income was still lower than the Indiana average.

Farm employment dropped between 1950 and 1960 by 46 percent. Even though jobs in manufacturing rose by 30 percent and other employment increased by 26 percent, the number of new jobs did not keep pace with the need. During the decade, unemployment more than doubled.

At the same time, the number of farm operators working off the farm to supplement their income increased from 27 to 41 percent--a trend that has moved faster in these eight counties than in the entire State or in the Nation.

Such was the situation when local people decided to act.

In each county the local Extension Agent of

(At right) When this cabinet factory burned down at Borden, residents formed a committee to get the plant rebuilt, even before the ashes had cooled. Three days later the owner said he would rebuild. Many employees aided in rebuilding, financed with help of an ARA loan. N-50155

Dewey Dunlevy, left, and Paul House, officers of the nonprofit Rural Membership Water Corporation of Clark County, oversee laying of water pipe from Sellersburg to Memphis and Henryville for a water system. After a study of the area's water problems by their RAD committee, over 200 people in the area helped in some way to get the water system. Local funds were combined with a Farmers Home Administration loan to finance the project. N-50189



the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Purdue University called together leaders from agriculture, business, industry, and city and county officials and others and assisted them in organizing county Rural Areas Development (RAD) committees.

Committee members studied their resources and needs, and provided the leadership for economic development. Continuing help came from Extension Service specialists, and from USDA agencies, organized into Technical Action Panels. Several State agencies, such as Conservation, Highway, Public Relations and Commerce helped. So did the State Tourist Assistance Council and county and municipal governments. All eight counties were eligible for aid from the Area Redevelopment Administration (ARA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC). Programs of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Department of Labor, and other Federal agencies helped.

Here are some highlights of what the local people have accomplished so far:

Seven new water systems are being built or planned in rural towns of under 2,500 population where before people had to use poor quality, sometimes polluted, well water or roof runoff water stored in cisterns. The systems, costing \$1.4 million, will give 1,100 rural families, schools, churches, and businesses adequate, sanitary water and fire protection. They will no longer have to truck in water costing as much as \$7 per 1,000 gallons during droughts. The communities will now be more attractive to industry. Money was raised through corporation membership, water subscription fees and loans from the Farmers Home Administration, USDA.

In two years beginning with fiscal 1961, Farmers Home Administration also helped 122 families in the area to enlarge, develop, or buy farms or to build new homes, for which no other financing was available. Loans for these purposes totaled \$1.5 million.

Local people at Cannelton (Perry County) are modernizing and expanding sewer lines with the help of an \$80,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and



Visiting nurse Barbara Schooler calls at a patient's home at English (Crawford County). In 1962 local people studied the county's health problems. With no hospitals, no nursing homes, and only four part-time doctors in a county with a high proportion of older people, the visiting Nurse Service was started with aid of a \$59,700 combined Federal-State grant. Patients pay according to ability. Nurses receive supervision from a doctor. The Visiting Nurse Service and a companion homemaker service help keep chronically ill and older people out of hospitals. N-50349

Welfare (HEW). Total project will cost \$449,000. HEW is also beginning a study of water pollution control in the Ohio and Wabash River Basins which will include much of the eight-county area.

By pulling together, local people in Washington County, led by their RAD committee, attracted a much-needed shoe factory to Salem. To establish the factory, the Salem Redevelopment Corporation was formed and knocked on doors to dig up contributions totaling \$30,000 from 140 county residents. Including loans from area banks, they raised \$253,700 more locally, and coupled it with an ARA loan of \$474,300 to build the plant. About 1,600 people applied for jobs at the factory before it was built. By the end of 1963, 400 of them will be employed at a \$2 million annual payroll. Sewage and water came through an ARA loan and grant totaling \$235,000 to Salem.

Employees are trained at a nearby school under the ARA program. Financing comes from HEW and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Action of local people at Borden (Clark

County) with ARA financial aid and USDA cooperation helped the firm's management rebuild a burned down cabinet factory employing 196 in a community of 400. Within 4½ months, all assembly lines were operating again and employment was up to 265. The payroll is up to \$1.4 million a year, \$700,000 more than it was a year before the fire. Fire protection came with an ARA grant of \$16,000 to Borden City to improve water facilities.

Local interests were able to put up a new building and lease it to a factory to assemble pianos because a USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) small watershed project, sponsored by the local Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Spring Valley Conservancy District, reduced flooding in the town of French Lick. The plant employs 100 and plans to increase its work force. Construction has started on an addition to the factory.

A Chicago plastics manufacturing company has established a new plant at Jeffersonville (Clark County), creating 12 new jobs. The plant was made possible by a \$16,000 loan by the Citizens Bank of Jeffersonville, and \$8,079 investment by the county's non-profit Southern Real Estate Investment Fund, a \$4,000 investment of the plastics company, and an ARA industrial loan of \$53,000. The Small Business Administration investigated the project, as it has all ARA industrial and commercial loan applications, and the USDA recommended approval. (SBA has approved loans of its own for the area totaling over \$1.1 million for the two years beginning January 1, 1960.)

A chair company at Tell City (Perry County) recently has completed a \$1 million expansion.

A new fiber board plant, also in Tell City, is expected to provide 265 new jobs. Financing is a cooperative venture--local and Federal. Total cost of the project will exceed \$2 million, which will be used to buy land, build the plant, and to buy and install machinery and equipment.

A new airport near Tell City, sponsored by the Perry County Airport Board, will provide 470 new jobs directly and indirectly. Financing included an ARA public facility

loan of \$77,000 and grants of \$77,000 each from ARA and the Federal Aviation Agency. Many of the new jobs will be created by new or expanded industry requiring air transportation into the area.

Through a combination of local and federal resources, a glass-sand company at Corydon (Harrison County) is tapping for the first time a glass-sand deposit long-known to exist--and providing at least 37 new jobs. Lack of finances previously had prevented development of this resource.

The glass-sand mining project was financed by the Harrison County Development Corporation (\$77,477), the company (\$38,739), the ARA (\$470,750 industrial loan), and the Harrison County Rural Electric Membership Corporation (\$190,000 loan). The loan from the rural electric cooperative was made possible by a USDA Rural Electrification Administration (REA) "section 5" consumer loan that enables the glass-sand corporation to purchase electrical equipment, including machinery.

Including the \$190,000 loan for the glass-sand project, REA since January 1, 1961, has loaned \$2,272,000 to electrification and telephone cooperatives serving the eight-county area.

Another natural resource being developed is recreation. Many local people know that 24 tourists a day bring as much money into a community as a factory with a \$100,000 annual payroll.

In four counties (Harrison, Crawford, Perry, Spencer) along the Ohio River, leaders joined to form the Lincoln Hills RAD committee to pull together to promote recreation and tourism in the area where Abraham Lincoln grew up. Lincoln Hills leaders applied for and were the first in the United States to receive approval for help from USDA with a Resource Conservation and Development Project to speed up development of water resources, industry, tourism, recreation and land use adjustment in a rural area of over one million acres. USDA's help will be administered by the Soil Conservation



(Left) Farmer Francis Hess of Corydon examines a new walnut tree and other useful hardwood saplings near the stump of a "wolf" beech tree that had robbed its neighbors of sunlight and moisture. Two years ago, he completed woodlot improvement work on his farm through ACP cost-share aid. BN-20053

(Below) Hager Garriott, Jr., irrigates about 60 acres of bottom land to raise high-profit cabbage and canning beans where he formerly grew corn. Water comes from a 12-acre flood protection and recreation lake he built with USDA help as part of the Elk Creek Watershed Project. Garriott donated the land and paid 18 percent of costs. N-50146

(Opposite) "Recreation Unlimited" is the new name for the Fred Churchill farm nestled in an oxbow of the Blue River near DePauw (Harrison County). Churchill received ACP aid for streambank clearance and has installed this pony ride plus picnic tables, gym sets, and rowboats to attract guests who pay \$1.50 per car for a day's fishing and fun for the whole family. He plans to convert productive cornland to baseball and croquet courts, and make more streambank improvements to open up a bridle path. BN-20052



Service in cooperation with four sponsoring soil and water conservation districts.

This development will be helped by the completion of a \$72 million dam (construction started in 1962) at Cannelton (Perry County) by the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers (see cover picture) as part of their program to modernize the Ohio River for navigation. When finished, the dam will form a 125 mile lake with many acres of new water offering inlets for boating marinas, fishing and other water-based recreation which local people and Indiana State agencies will develop. A similar dam is nearing completion further up the Ohio.

The Lincoln Hills group also sponsored bridges to be built at Cannelton (Perry County) and Mauckport (Harrison County) and a speed-up of construction of Interstate Highway 64 to aid in opening the area to about five million people in urban areas within a 200-mile radius.

A group of young farmers pulled together in Washington County and formed the Elk Creek Watershed Association to co-sponsor the Elk Creek Watershed Project with the local soil conservation district. Now 18,000

acres of land (including 216 farms) are protected from yearly flooding that rampaged over crops, pastures, roads and bridges, with \$14,000 annual damage.

The small watershed project also contains a 47-acre recreation lake, built in cooperation with the Indiana Conservation Department. Easements and rights-of-way valued at \$41,000 were donated by the landowners who also dug deep for funds to aid development of the watershed. With water now available for irrigation, high income vegetable crops are being raised on some land that once produced surplus corn.

Other multi-purpose watershed projects, which include recreation lakes, are being built in the eight-county area due to similar local action. In addition, USDA's Forest Service (FS) has speeded recreational development in Hoosier National Forest through the Accelerated Public Works Program,

and other activities. Farmers now may obtain technical and credit help from USDA to establish income-producing recreational enterprises.

In Clark County, Donald Rose, of Jeffersonville, gets almost all his income from a small lake which he opened to public fishing, and from the operation of a bait and refreshment stand.

Agriculture will continue to be the biggest contributor to the economy. Consequently, programs providing price support loans on grains and soybeans, adjustment of production for surplus crops and cropland conversion to other uses will continue to make an important contribution to farm income of the area.

Many farmers who have grain storage facilities on their farms are able to use the price support program to increase their income from corn by as much as 15 to 25 cents a bushel. Income from soybeans also has been increased substantially through the use of farm programs.

These services plus cost-share assistance in establishing soil, water, and wildlife conservation measures on farms in the area are available through USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) county offices.

Farmers have not given up. Many plow some of their income back into the land to protect the highly erodible soil. They do this voluntarily, using their money, labor and materials along with Federal cost sharing. They plant permanent grass cover to hold the land. They build livestock water and erosion control dams to help manage water. They plant trees on hillsides, and on land not suitable for cultivation of row crops. Last year farmers of the eight counties used USDA Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) cost-sharing to plant over 500 acres of trees, 8,012 acres of permanent cover, and to put legumes on another 4,333 acres to help keep the land tied-down between crops. They built 161 water storage-type dams. Altogether, owners and operators of 3,626 farms used ACP to conserve soil, water, timber and wildlife.

Farmers in all eight counties are getting



USDC, which has allotted \$275,000 for new projects since 1962. Ponds, picnic grounds, roads, parking areas, plus conservation measures for the forest and its wildlife are part of the projects planned or accomplished. Last year, this forest had 138,000 recreation visits.

Farmers themselves are selling recreation to supplement their incomes. Some are creating new lakes or developing existing ones on their farms for fishing, picnicking



Near French Lick (Orange County) men and machines are damming up a small valley to create a 140 acre recreation lake. The lake is part of a larger watershed project covering 21,880 acres. Sponsored by local conservation districts, it will stop \$40,000 a year flooding damage in two towns and 210 farms. USDA is spending \$553,500 to help farmers protect their land and build four flood prevention dams. One shown here is being enlarged by the State for recreation use. The State also bought 1,165 acres around the lake for public recreation. Local people are spending \$179,000 on the entire project. N-50148



Sign in a gasoline station illustrates Crawford County's campaign to get on tourist map. Other advertisement in the eight-county area is found on newspaper mastheads, placemats in restaurants where tourists eat, and booklets describing area's wild flowers. N-50163



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French Lick during 1961 flood. Business on town's main street washed away with area's crops during floods which hit up to eight times a season. Shown here is swimming pool (left) of resort hotel, bottling works (center), and an unfinished school gym (right). A football field is under water. Action by college superintendent of adjoining town, the hotel manager, farmers Mickle Marshall and Bill Charles, and many others got the watershed project going. BN-19776

A quarter-mile-long grass waterway, built through ACP cost-share assistance helps insure that silt-free water will be emptied into the Little Indianhead Creek from the farm of Charles W. Simler, right, of Lanesville. Simler recalls with Willard Wiseman, left, chairman of his Harrison County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, that a tremendous gully scarred this field before the ACP helped him do needed conservation work. BN-20051



help from USDA's Soil Conservation Service through locally-governed soil and water conservation districts, in protecting their lands against floods, erosion and sediment damage. They are converting land to crops more suitable to the soil. They have the help of ASC county committees. The requirements for cover and erosion control on uplands above the watershed flood prevention dams have been met promptly, even sped up, through ACP cost-sharing for these practices.

In a neighboring county, the Southern Indiana Forage Farm, part of Purdue University's Agricultural Experiment Station, is tackling crop and livestock problems faced by the area's farmers.

The Farm Credit System (Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank Association, and the Louisville Bank for Cooperatives) has helped farmers with credit. At the end of 1962, it had about \$10.5 million in loans outstanding in the counties, made to help farmers operate more efficiently with greater income, to gain ownership of their farms, and to aid cooperatives where farmers buy and sell. The money stimulates the economy, too, since it changes hands many times before leaving the area.

Southern Indiana today is on the upswing because local people made it so--by pulling together with State and Federal agencies to produce this surge of economic development.

(Left) Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Apple (Orange County) admire catch of Gardner Flick. When the Apples realized their farm crops did not provide adequate income, they built two ponds, which they stock with fish. They charge fees to sportsmen. Over 10,000 people a year from 42 states visit them. Many eat in the dining hall (rear) the Apples constructed using their labor and timber from their farm. Mrs. Apple hewed the ceiling beams herself one winter. They employ three people plus part-time help; are trying to build up a beef cattle herd. N-50193

(Below) Employees of the Salem shoe factory, still under construction, leave the plant at the end of their shift. About 1600 people from the area applied for jobs at the plant before it was built. N-50198





Farmer Otis Sprinkle, Fredonia (Crawford County), is one of several local people who donate time, labor, benches, and other material to personally develop and maintain roadside stops for tourists on the bluffs overlooking the Ohio River. The Lincoln Hills RAD committee spearheaded a scenic drive (now under construction) along the river, which will connect Corydon with Evansville. N-50143

Farmer Lincoln Crane, chairman of the Martin County Soil Conservation District, plants soybeans on a field that has flooded seasonally for as long as Crane can remember. Crane and neighbors promoted plans for a USDA small watershed project, with cooperation of a Naval ammunition depot containing 31,000 of the 41,000 acres in the Boggs Creek Watershed. Two flood prevention dams coupled with soil conservation measures on the hills have stopped an annual \$14,000 damage to crops on the watershed's 60 farms. Farmers in an adjoining watershed with similar problems have already formed a steering committee to submit their own small watershed application. Crane has tiled this field for drainage under ACP cost-sharing. N-50157





Retired school teacher Blanche Davidson waters plants in her modern one-story New Salisbury (Harrison County) home built with help of a \$10,000 Farmers Home Administration rural housing loan. The home replaced her family's farm home which was in poor condition. N-50197

After a survey by the State and Purdue's conservation department determined most of Crawford County's timber was cull, Franklin Crews, left, started this mill at English in 1962 using the cull timber to make dimension squares for furniture legs and crating. He employs Richard Gregory, center, and Gilbert Dearborn, right, of English. Crews helped initiate the survey. In past two years, 780,000 trees have been planted and landowners have improved their forest management. N-50203



Farmhand Raymond Cox tends pigs at Leavenworth (Crawford County) where farmers are bringing extra money into the county by cooperatively selling about 400 feeder pigs each week. N-50180

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Burns (rear) of Evansville, Ind., watch their children play at a campsite in Lincoln State Park (Spencer County). The park, offering fishing, swimming, boating and hiking, is being combined with another State park and enlarged to 190 acres through efforts of local people and the State to become the first Indiana unit in the National Park system. Attractions include site of Lincoln's boyhood home, Lincoln Memorial, and grave of his mother. N-50152





On land near Cape Sandy (Crawford County) that once added to surplus corn inventory, 40 men will have full employment quarrying stone for road and other construction, because of local action. A bulldozer clears the land as a beginning of the operation. N-50175

A livestock watering tank is located below this pond on the J. H. Davis farm near Livonia (Washington County). Built through ACP cost-share assistance, the pond opened up grazing on the adjoining pasture. It also provides a picnicking and fishing area for Davis and his friends as a recreation bonus. BN-20050

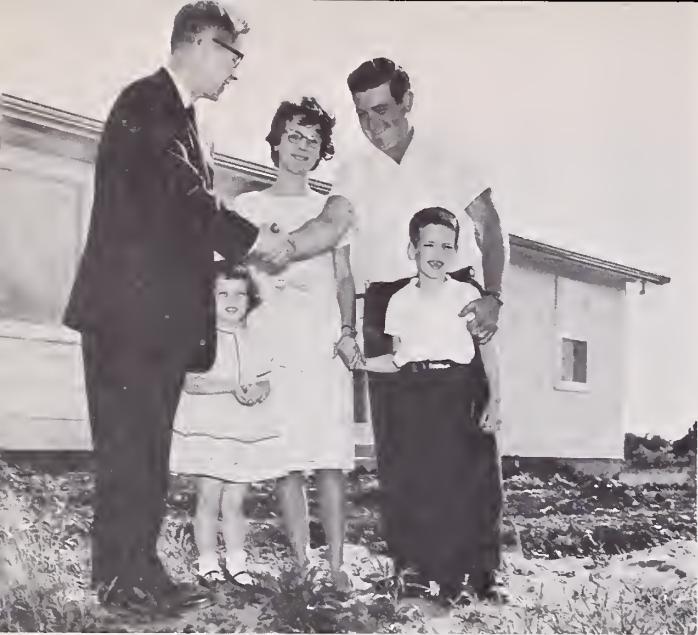


(Opposite) Mr. and Mrs. John Schwartz and children, of Evansville, drove 130 miles round trip to spend an afternoon swimming at Hoosier National Forest (Perry County). Last year, this forest had 138,000 recreation visits. N-50178

Roger Lankford and his family (below) have used supervised credit of the Farmers Home Administration to get title and make needed improvements in the land and buildings of their 312-acre beef and hog farm near Paoli (Orange County). Besides remodeling their home (rear) they have limed their fields, built a farrowing house, improved fencing and drainage of farm land. N 50350. Their home before remodeling is shown at left. BN-19777







Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, left, meets Mr. and Mrs. Don Churchill and their children, of Corydon, during a recent two-day tour he made of RAD projects in southern Indiana. The Churchills lived in a house trailer until they were able to obtain a \$12,900 USDA Farmers Home Administration loan to build their three-bedroom home (rear) after the Housing Act of 1961 broadened the rural housing program to permit loans to rural residents as well as farmers. Churchill runs a trucking business. N-49806

Secretary Freeman talks with a trainee in a school at Salem during the tour. The school is run by the ARA to teach people from the area to make shoes so they can take jobs in a shoe factory attracted to Salem by local people. Factory manager Lee Kursewicz is between Secretary Freeman and the trainee. N-50357



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